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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously amended) A method of making a biopsy needle comprising the steps of:

providing a proximal needle segment having at least one lumen segment extending therethrough;

forming a distal needle segment about the proximal needle portion, wherein the distal needle segment is formed to have a lumen segment continuous with the lumen segment of the proximal needle portion, wherein the lumen segment of the distal needle segment defines an axis;

providing a closed tip at the distal end of the distal needle segment, wherein the axis defined by the lumen segment of the distal needle segment passes through the closed tip; and

providing a transverse tissue receiving port in the distal needle segment, wherein the transverse tissue receiving port is proximal to the closed tip and distal to the proximal needle segment.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the proximal needle segment provides a support structure in the step of forming the distal needle portion.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of forming the distal needle segment comprises molding the distal needle portion about a portion of the proximal needle portion.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of forming the distal needle segment comprises injection molding the distal needle portion.

5. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the tissue receiving port is in communication with the lumen segment of the distal needle segment.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of forming the distal needle segment comprises providing a plurality of passageways extending through an outer surface of the distal needle segment.

7. (canceled)

8. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of forming the distal needle segment comprises forming a cutter lumen segment and a vacuum lumen segment.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the step of forming the distal needle segment comprises forming a plurality of interlumen vacuum holes between the cutter lumen segment and the vacuum lumen segment.

10. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the step of forming the distal needle segment comprises forming a plurality of fluid passages extending from the vacuum lumen segment through an outside surface of the distal needle segment.

11. through 15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the closed tip is configured to penetrate tissue.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the distal needle segment comprises two halves joined together, wherein the halves are substantially longitudinally coextensive.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 17 ~~18~~, wherein the transverse tissue receiving port is defined by complimentary recesses formed in each of the two halves of the distal needle segment.

19. (previously presented)The method of Claim 1, wherein the closed tip is configured to provide an MRI artifact.

20. (previously presented)The method of Claim 19, further comprising providing a capsule in the closed tip, wherein the capsule is configured to provide an MRI artifact.

21. (previously presented)The method of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the distal needle segment is formed of a thermoplastic material.

22. (previously presented)The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a liner within the lumen segment defined by one or both of the proximal needle segment or the distal needle segment.

23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the liner is formed of a polypropylene material.

24. (previously presented)The method of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the closed tip is formed of a resin.